

1 45939/VGG/H320

KERRIA JAPONICA NAMED 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC [*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.], which was discovered as a branch sport from the species *Kerria japonica* in Saitama Prefecture, Japan. The varietal denomination of the  
10 new variety is 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

The genus *Kerria* is included in the family Rosaceae, which comprises about 100 genera and 2,000 species of herbs, shrubs and trees native mostly to China and Japan. *Kerria* comprises one species, *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC, native to the temperate regions  
15 of eastern Asia, which possesses desirable ornamental characteristics.

*Kerria japonica* is a deciduous shrub with Green leaves and glabrous branches. Leaves of the typical species are alternate, oval, long acuminate, serrated on the margins with pinnate  
20 venation. It generally has Yellow flowers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety was discovered as a branch sport and differs from its parent by white flecked variegated foliage and White and  
25 Creamy striped flowers. Asexual reproduction of the new variety by vegetative cuttings, performed in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania and Vacaville, California have confirmed that the distinctive characteristics of the new variety are stable and transmitted to succeeding generations, and the new variety reproduces true to  
30 type.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTS

'FUBUKI NISHIKI' is distinguished from its parent and all other varieties of *Kerria japonica* of which I am aware by White  
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1 45939/VGG/H320

flecked variegated foliage and White and Creamy marked flowers.  
The parent plant has completely Green foliage and Yellow flowers.

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1 45939/VGG/H320

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS

5 The accompanying illustrations show a specimen of the new  
cultivar in a photo illustration as true to color as is  
reasonably possible to make in an illustration of this character.

**FIG. 1** illustrates the distinctive variegated foliage of  
'FUBUKI NISHIKI'; and

**FIG. 2** illustrates the flower of 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

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1 45939/VGG/H320

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 'FUBUKI NISHIKI' has not been observed under all possible environmental, cultural and light conditions. The following observations and descriptions are of plants grown in Vacaville, California and Lewisberry, Pennsylvania. In this description, color references are to *The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart* (1995) and terminology used in the color descriptions herein refers to plate numbers in this color chart. Phenotypic expression may vary with light intensity, cultural and environmental conditions.

15 BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION

*Kerria japonica* (L.) DC. [*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.]

Parentage: Branch sport from the species

Propagation: Stem cuttings

20 PLANT

Size: About 2 m tall; about 3 m across

Habit: Upright; multi-branched shrub when young, becoming spreading with age

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Branching

Lateral Branches: Numerous, obliquely upright becoming pendant with age

Typical Branch Number: More than 300

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Observed Branch Number: 125

Size

Length: About 2 m long

Diameter: Between 4 to 5 mm

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Color



1 45939/VGG/H320

of variegation. Foliage holds the initial variegation from emergence through the growing season.

5 Young Foliage

Green Sections

Upper Side: Green Group, near 143A

Under Side: Green Group, near 143B

10 Variegated Sections

Upper Side: Greyed-Green Group, near 196C and 196D and White Group, near 155B

Under Side: Greyed-Green Group, near 196D

15 Mature Foliage

Green Sections

Upper Side: Green Group, near 143A

Under Side: Green Group, near 143B

20 Variegated Sections

Upper Side: Greyed-Green Group, near 196C and 196D and White Group, near 155B

Under Side: Greyed-Green Group, near 196D

25 Venation Pattern: Alternately pinnate depressed above, raised beneath

Petiole

Size: Between 0.5 to 1.5 cm

Coloration: Green Group, near 143A

30 Texture: Smooth

Internodes: Between 1 to 8 cm

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4 (-30°F to -20°F)

Vigor: Rapid growth rate

35 Pests/Diseases: No pest or disease problems noted

1 45939/VGG/H320

INFLORESCENCE

5 Bloom Period  
Outdoors: March to May  
Greenhouse: Not observed in greenhouse conditions

10 Flower: Rotate  
Arrangement: Solitary, terminal on lateral branchlets  
Size: About 3.5 cm wide  
Inflorescence shape: Solitary, terminal on lateral branchlets

15 Fragrance: None noted  
Lastingness of individual blooms: Between 3 to 5 days  
Petalage

20 Number: About 5  
Shape: Ovate  
Apex: Retuse occasionally apiculate  
Base: Abruptly attenuate

25 Size: About 16 mm long; about 7 mm wide  
Margin: Entire and smooth, often undulate  
Curvature: Slightly inwardly cupped  
Arrangement: Rotate  
Color

30 Ground color: Yellow-Orange Group, near 145B

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1 45939/VGG/H320

5 Variegated section: Greyed-Green Group, near 196C-D  
with occasional Yellow-Orange  
Group, near 11B; occasional  
random markings or stripes  
parallel to the long axis of the  
petal, occasional marginal  
variegation

10 Sepals: Pointed, with some striped  
variegation

#### REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

15 Androecium  
Stamens: Between 30-40  
Anther  
Shape: Club shaped  
Color: Yellow-Orange Group, near 11B  
20 Pollen amount: Numerous  
Color: Yellow-Orange Group, near 11B  
Gynoecium  
Pistil count: About 5  
Length: About 2 mm  
25 Stigma Color: Yellow-Orange Group, near 11B  
Style Color: Yellow-Orange Group, near 11B  
Ovary Color: Yellow-Orange Group, near 11B  
Fruit Type: Achene

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